

Docket No.: 77897-US1
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: M Ashraf Imam et al.

Application No.: 08/845,897

Confirmation No.: 8846

Filed: April 28, 1997

Art Unit: 1771

For: POROUS METAL/ORGANIC POLYMERIC
COMPOSITES

Examiner: H. Vo


REPLY BRIEF

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

The Examiner has maintained that the "polymeric matrix" recited in the appealed claims encompasses a polymeric binder and inorganic filler (Examiner's Answer, page 3, lines 10-11). The Examiner stated that "Nothing in the specification positively discloses that the polymer matrix is limited to the polymer only as asserted by Applicants." (Examiner's Answer, page 7, lines 4-6). However, Applicants' argument is that the vol% of polymeric matrix does not include an inorganic filler. The specification nowhere mentions inorganic fillers. A claimed element does not encompass all possible materials that could be added to the element. The preamble "comprising" means that the claimed invention may include additional elements, but does affect the meaning of the recited elements.

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Respectfully submitted,

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